Talks with China on air services

†4192. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bilateral talks have been held between India and China to increase air services;

(b) if so, the details of the talks; and

(c) the decision taken by the two countries as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bilateral air services consultations with China were held in New Delhi on 16-17 March, 2005. In pursuance to these discussions, an MoU was signed between India and China on 11.4.2005 providing for gradual increase in entitlements for operation of air services between the two countries to 14 services per week with immediate effect and to 42 services per week by summer 2006. Designated airlines of either country have also been permitted to operate to any six destinations in the territory of the other country.

Expenditure on Airport Security

4193. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deployment of CISF personnel for airport security costs Government a monthly outgo of Rs. 16.00 crores;

(b) whether the cost of airport security mechanism in India is one of the lowest in the world; and

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the airport tax to absorb a major share of wages to CISF personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Presently this is approximately the recurring monthly expenditure incurred by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on the pay, allowances, medical, TA/DA etc.

(b) The comparative data in respect of the cost of airport security of other countries is not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.